GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1612
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
RELEASE OF RABBITS AND PIGS INTO SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmentalists have opposed the Maharashtra Government's action of releasing rabbits and domestic pigs into Sanjay Gandhi National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the leopards have become man eaters there;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) As reported by the state government no environmental group has opposed the release of rabbits and domestic pigs into Sanjay Gandhi National Park
(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Measures taken by the State Government to subdue terror of the leopards − Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARED QUESTION NO. 1612 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19-7-2004 RAISED BY SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA AND SHRI RAJESH VERMA

1. 35 traps have been set-up at various strategic points around Sanjay Gandhi National Park in problem hit areas to trap the leopards and so far 11 leopards have been trapped since 1st of June, 2004.

2. Massive awareness campaign has been launched to educate the people about the precautions to be taken to avoid leopard attacks.

3. On experimental basis 168 domestic pigs and 10 rabbits have been released in the park.

4. Regular patrolling of the problem area by a patrolling squad specially informed for the purpose is being done along with the local volunteers and the nature lovers.

Central Government also provides financial assistance to the state government for habitat restoration and protection of Sanjay Gandhi National Park.